

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. *yul 602*

DATE DISTR. 9 Mar 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g  
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT VII Plenum of CTC

25X1A

PLACE 25X1A6a

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF IN [REDACTED]

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1. Leaders of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC - Communist Party of Colombia) feel that the new directorate of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC), elected during the VII General Plenum of the CTC, will be unfavorable in spite of the fact that four of the members are Communists. The replacement of Pedro J. Abella, PCC member, as Secretary General by Ventura Puentes Vanegas, also a Communist, is not entirely satisfactory inasmuch as the PCC does not expect the latter to be as active as his predecessor in working for Communism within the labor movement. Furthermore, Abella, in his new position of Secretary of Finance, will be extremely restricted in his activities and will have little opportunity to use his position for the benefit of the Party. Jaime Rubio, newly appointed Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the CTC, is a member of the PCC, but he is not to be counted upon as it is considered that he is completely under the influence of Diego Montana Cuellar, a Liberal and former Legal Advisor of the Fedepetrol.\*\*
2. PCC leaders have been particularly bitter in their criticism of Victor Julio Silva, 1948 President of the CTC, and consider him principally responsible for the Party's loss of influence during the past year. They charge that he made use of his position as President to attain his election to the Colombian House of Representatives. The Communists consider that in accepting the governmental appointment as Colombian delegate to the Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in San Francisco early in 1948, Silva contributed to the curtailment of the authority and privileges of the CTC in labor matters. They claim that he has demonstrated his lack of understanding of the social and political importance of the CTC. Their severest criticism of him results from what they consider his unwarranted interference with the activities of Pedro J. Abella during 1948. According to the PCC, Silva resigned from the presidency of the CTC during the VII Plenum for the sole purpose of forcing the retirement of Abella from the Secretary Generalship and replacing him with a Liberal.
3. The conflict between the Communists and the Liberals in the CTC was very evident throughout the Plenum and resulted in the Communists refusing to sign the resolution which called for participation by laborers in the demonstration held on 7 February 1949. Their refusal was prompted in part by the fear that the PCC would be blamed for any trouble which might occur during the demonstration, and Party members were consequently directly to take no part in it.
4. One of the questions discussed during the secret sessions of the Plenum concerned

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

REG. 77/1763

Date: 5 MAY 1978

By: *016*

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CTC support of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). The question was brought up in response to a query from Vicente Lombardo Toledano, leader of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL). As a result of the conflict at the recent meeting of the ILO in Paris, the CTAL queried its member labor confederations as to whether in their opinion the CTAL should withdraw from the ILO in defense of the WFTU. The Communist members of the CTC submitted a proposal calling for complete support of the WFTU, which was accepted by the Plenum, and a cable to that effect sent to Lombardo Toledano. Abella also sent a personal letter to Lombardo Toledano in which he expressed his pessimism concerning the possibility of promoting Marxist programs in the Colombian labor movement.

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